

Whole Life Health Care **Notice of Privacy Practices**

We are required by federal law to provide you with a “Notice of Privacy Practices.” This notice describes how health information that we maintain about you may be used or disclosed. It provides a description of your rights and our obligation under federal and state privacy laws.

The confidentiality of patient information has always been a high priority for us. Our employees are constantly reminded of its importance. This ethic will not change.

The Federal Government has recently passed a law – the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (**HIPAA**). The law formally protects your Protected Health Information (**PHI**), which includes your demographics (address, phone number, etc.) and all your health information.

Under the law you have specific rights – subject to certain exceptions and limitations:

1. To receive a paper copy of this “Notice of Privacy Practices”
2. To request an amendment of the health information in your file to a privacy officer, if you believe it is inaccurate; If your request to amend your health information is denied, you may submit a written statement to Whole Life Health Care disagreeing with the denial which we will keep on file and distribute with all future disclosures of the information to which it relates.
3. To an accounting of certain disclosures made by this office of your PHI made during the 6 yr. period preceding the date of your request. Exceptions include, disclosures regarding treatment, disclosures made to you as a patient, payment, or health care operations purposes: disclosures to your family or close friends involved with your care; or for notification purposes.
4. To examine and copy your protected health information. To arrange access to your records or to receive a copy of your records a written request should be submitted to one of our privacy officers or to the medical records office.
5. To request restrictions, other than regarding emergency circumstances, on the allowable uses and disclosures of your PHI. Such restrictions may include prohibitions on disclosure of certain types of PHI or certain persons you do not wish to have access to your PHI. Whole Life Health Care is not required to agree with these restrictions. To request a restriction, submit a written request to a privacy officer.

Whole Life Health Care in compliance with the privacy law

1. May use your PHI, without separate consent or authorization from you for treatment, payment or facility operations in connection with services rendered by us, to you. For example we may provide your past medical history to a consultant you’ve been referred to or we may provide your personal health information to your insurance plan or to support our request for reimbursement. We may also with your consent disclose your PHI to family members and close friends involved in your care.

2. May be required to disclose your PHI, without your consent or authorization, if required by law. For example, the law requires that certain PHI be disclosed in connection with protection of the public health, for governmental health oversight activities, in response to a valid subpoena or other judicial process, in response to certain law enforcement inquiries, or to lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

Uses and disclosures other than those specifically referenced above or otherwise allowed by law, will be made only with your written authorization and you may revoke such authorization, in writing, at any time.

It is our policy to contact patients by phone to provide appointment reminders. A message about the appointment reminder may be left on your answering machine or on your work voice mail. Results of strep screens may also be left on your answering machine or voice mail.

Marketing Materials: You will not receive any marketing materials from us, unless we first receive a separate written consent form, executed by you, allowing us to provide you with such information.

Changes to the Notice: This facility may change the terms of this written notice and may make the new notice provisions effective for all protected health information that we maintain. If we do so, we will provide you with a copy of the revised notice upon request, and we will post the notice, with the effective date, in a visible location in this office. This notice may at some point in time also be posted on our website.

Complaints: If you believe your privacy rights have been violated you may complain to us and to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. If you have any questions about this, or wish to file a complaint with this office, please file a written complaint with a designated privacy officer. You will not be retaliated against in any way, for the filing of the complaint.

Designated Contacts:

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